

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Amendment the Claims under consideration are 3-41. Claims 1-2 have been cancelled hereby. Claims 28-41 have been added. Applicants have hereby incorporated the limitations of Claim 1 into Claims 5, 6, and 7 which are indicated as allowable if placed in independent form. Independent Claims 13 and 19 have been amended to include the limitations of Claims 5-7 as a group. The dependency of Claims 3-4 and 8-12 have been changed to Claim 5. Claims 28-41 have been added to present dependent claims similar to Claims 3-4 and 8-12 but dependent upon Claims 6 and 7. Claims 14-18 and 20-27 were amended to correct typographical errors. The Detailed Action of 25 May 2004 will now be addressed with reference to the headings and any paragraph numbers therein.

Information Disclosure Statements

The Applicants have submitted several Information Disclosure Statements. which have not been acknowledged by the Office. 1) A copy of the Second Information Disclosure Statement Form 1449, submitted 21 May 2003 was returned with the Office Action, but the references cited were not evidenced as acknowledged by the Examiner's initials. 2) No copy of the Third Information Disclosure Statement Form 1449, submitted 16 July 2003 (returned receipt postcard dated by the Office on 21 July 2003) was returned to Applicants with the Office Action. 3) No copy of the Form 1449 for the document labeled "Fifth Information Disclosure Statement", submitted 10 May 2004 (returned receipt postcard dated by the Office on 13 May 2004) was returned to Applicants with the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's acknowledgement of consideration of each of the references cited in above Information Disclosure Statements.

Drawings

Formal drawings of Figs. 10-14 are included herewith to correct the objections of the draftsperson as included with the Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-7 are objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claims, but allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claims 5-7 in this manner to place the Claims in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §103

Per paragraph 3 of the Detailed Action, Claims 1-4 and 8-27 stand rejected as obvious over Odorzyński *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,245,050, hereinafter Odorzyński) in view of Thomas (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0019616 hereinafter Thomas).

By amendment of the Claims 5-7 to place them in condition for allowance, and incorporation of the limitations of Claims 5-7 into each of remaining independent Claims 13 and 19, it is believed that all outstanding rejections have been overcome and all Claims placed in condition for allowance hereby.

Applicants note particularly with respect to Claim 4, the Detailed Action (page 3) asserts that "Odorzyński/Thomas disclose the elastomeric film is formed by hot melt coextrusion of the first material composition and the second material composition (Odorzyński col.)." However, it is noted that the citation to Odorzyński is incomplete.

Applicants, after careful study, see no reference to coextrusion of first and second material compositions. Clarification is requested from the Examiner if all Claims are not allowed after consideration of the present amendment.

For all the foregoing reasons, the Claims as presently amended are believed to be allowable over the art of record. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Request For Telephonic Interview

The Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney (per the provisions of M.P.E.P. § 713) to discuss any further problems or suggest solutions in defining the present invention in order to expedite the case towards allowance before issuing a final Office Action.

A check in the amount of \$388.00 for the addition of 2 independent claims and 12 dependent claims higher than the previous number paid for is included herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-3550. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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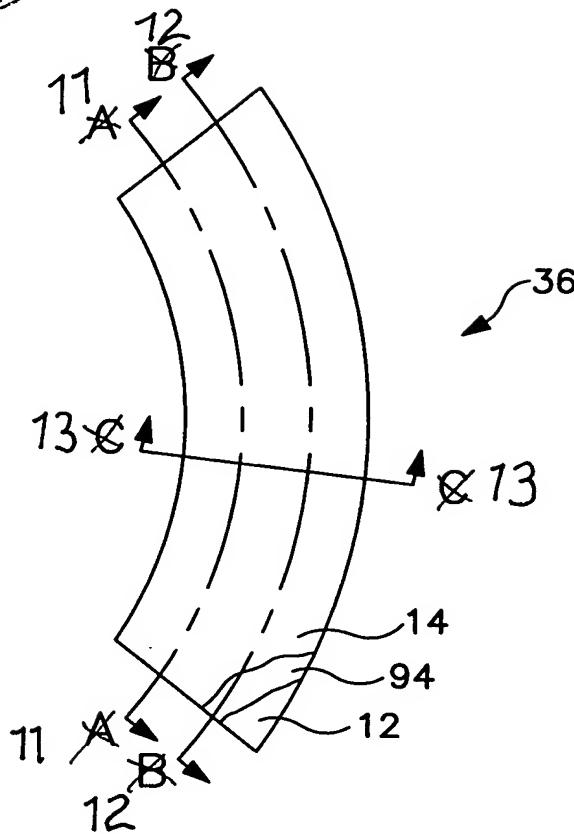


FIG. 10

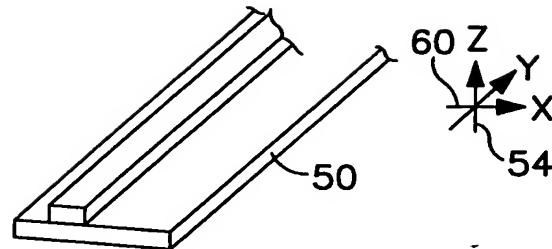


FIG. 14

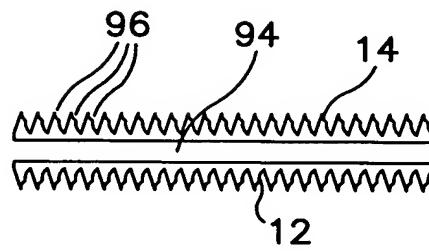


FIG. 11

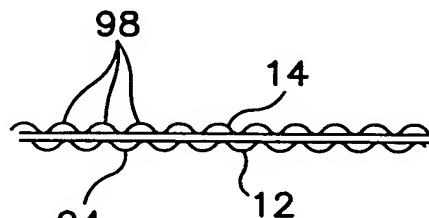


FIG. 12

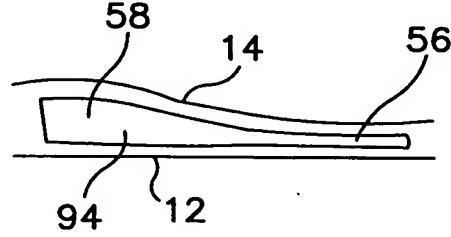


FIG. 13

IN THE DRAWINGS:

One page of substitute drawings for Figures 10-14 showing proposed amendments to Fig. 10, as marked in red, is included herewith to obviate the draftsperson's objections as noted on the form PTO-948 included with the Office Action. A drawing sheet having the proposed amendments made in final form is further included to expedite prosecution of the application